

Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3400

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LI UNGA

SUBJ: TOLBERT'S DESIRE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT

1. AMB EMMETT HARMON CALLED ON AMB SCALI AFTERNOON APR 5 TO PRESS PRES TOLBERT'S BID FOR CALL ON PRES NIXON. LABELING HIS REPRESENTATIONS CONFIDENTIAL AND ENTIRELY PERSONAL, HARMON EMPHASIZED THAT LIBERIA WOULD NOT EXPLICITLY ASK FOR MEETING. HE GAVE IMPRESSION THEY WISHED BOTH TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF REFUSAL AND TO BE ABLE TO REPRESENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, IF IT OCCURRED, AS TAKING PLACE AT AMERICAN INITIATIVE. HARMON CITED (A) TOLBERT'S PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP FOR AND PAST SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, AND (B) FACT TOLBERT WOULD BRING FRESH IMPRESSIONS OF HIS RECENT CONTACTS IN ALGIERS, JIDDA, BEIRUT AND CAIRO, AND (C) TOLBERT'S GROWING STATURE AS SPOKESMAN FOR MODERATE VIEWPOINT AMONG AFRICANS. COMMENT: WE ARE IN FACT HOPEFUL LIBERIA WILL PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN OFFSETTING EXTREMISTS DURING SPECIAL GA.

2. HARMON RECALLED HIS OWN ROLE IN HOSPITALITY FOR PRES NIXON DURING VISITS TO LIBERIA IN 1959 AND 1967.

3. HARMON ACKNOWLEDGED AWARENESS OF PRESSURES ON PRES NIXON'S TIME. RE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT, I TOLD HIM ONLY THAT I WOULD COMMUNICATE HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON. I OF COURSE OFFERED FULL COOPERATION OF USUN TO LIBERIAN
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DELEGATION AND UNDERTOOK TO STAY IN TOUCH.

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Message Attributes

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